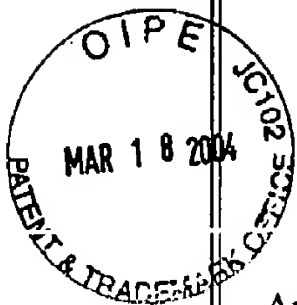


AF/3738



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Moroni, A.

Examiner: Pellegrino, B.E.

Application No.: 09/577,790

Group Art Unit: 3738

Filed: May 24, 2000

Docket: 760-116 RCE

For: IMPLANTABLE PROSTHESES
WITH IMPROVED
MECHANICAL AND CHEMICAL
PROPERTIES

Dated: March 15, 2004

Confirmation No.: 4530

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dated: March 15, 2004

Signature M.J. Mullin

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated January 14, 2004, a reply to which is due April 14, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows. As this response is being filed within two months of the mailing of the Office Action, a reply by the three month due date is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this submission.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this submission.

BP 3/30/04
DO NOT ENTER